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Free CMEs for pain management scheduled to expire May 1, 2014

DES MOINES, IA – The continuing medical education activities associated with a pain medicine prescribing book distributed by the Iowa Board of Medicine will expire on May 1, 2014.

Physicians can earn up to 7.25 Category 1 credits by successfully completing the three online CME modules that complement the second edition of “Responsible Opioid Prescribing: A Clinician’s Guide.” The CME activities are provided by the University of Nebraska Medical Center for Continuing Education. The CMEs meet the Board’s mandatory training on chronic pain management. There is no charge to participants for earning the CMEs.

“Responsible Opioid Prescribing: A Clinician’s Guide” is offered free of charge to Iowa-licensed physicians upon request. To order a copy, call (515) 242-6039 or send an e-mail to ibm@iowa.gov. Include the physician’s name and postal address. The Board has distributed more than 2,500 copies of the book.

Iowa-licensed physicians are required to complete 2 hours of Category 1 activity for chronic pain management and 2 hours of Category 1 activity for end-of-life care every five years. These requirements, which became effective August 17, 2011, are for physicians who provide primary care to patients (e.g., emergency physicians, family physicians, general practice physicians, internists, neurologists, pain medicine specialists, psychiatrists).

Physicians who had permanent Iowa licenses on August 17, 2011, have until August 17, 2016, to complete the training, and then once every five years thereafter. Physicians who receive an Iowa medical license after August 17, 2011, must complete the training within five years of the date of issuance, and then once every five years thereafter.

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